



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

PO Box 116, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Phone: 573/526-9100 Fax: 573/634-7966
E-mail: mosema@mail.state.mo.us



SITUATION REPORT

April 24, 2002 Southeast Missouri Severe Storms Event and
April 28, 2002 Bollinger County Tornado

Report #3

April 29, 2002

Around 4:00 p.m., 24 April 2002, a line of thunderstorms with high winds, damaging hail and tornadoes stretched from just south of St. Louis through most of South East Missouri. There were numerous reports of tornadoes that developed from this front as it passed through the area. Governor Bob Holden declared a State of Emergency for Southeast Missouri Counties following these severe spring storms.

*At approximately 1:15 a.m., 28 April 2002, a tornado struck southern Bollinger County south of Marble Hill Missouri. 12-15 homes received severe damages. 5-6 mobile homes also were hit. **One twelve-year-old boy was fatally injured by this storm.** Four people were life flighted from the damage area to Cape Girardeau Hospitals.*

Governor Holden's Declaration for Madison, Butler and Carter Counties and other counties will include Bollinger County.

County Reports:

Bollinger County: One fatality, and four seriously injured. Of the four life-flighted to Cape Girardeau Hospitals, three are in serious condition and one was released. Six other citizens were treated and released locally. FEMA/SEMA Damage Assessment Teams reported 5 single family homes and 10 mobile homes as destroyed. 5 single family homes are with major damage and 2 single family suffered minor damage. Emergency Management Director broke his leg and was replaced by Asst. EMD. MoDOT Front-end loader as well as locally volunteered equipment is being used to clear County Road 512 where most of the damaged homes are located.

Summary for Bollinger County is:

- 15 homes were destroyed
- 5 homes suffered major damage
- 2 homes had minor damage

Butler County:

City of Poplar Bluff and surrounding area, Preliminary Damage assessment teams from SEMA and FEMA completed their survey work over the weekend and reported:

50 homes were destroyed
16 homes suffered major damage
30 homes had minor damage

Carter County:

13 homes were destroyed
12 homes suffered major damage
27 homes had minor damage

Madison County: SEMA/FEMA joint damage assessment teams reported the following from Madison County:

6 homes were destroyed
12 homes suffered major damage
22 homes had minor damage

Howell County: Willow Springs area reported ten homes damaged and Missouri Highway Patrol Troop G Radio Tower collapsed Saturday night as a result of the same storm that hit Bollinger County. Visit by Joint Damage Assessment Teams has been requested by SEMA.

Phelps County: Please note: One section of Phelps County reported damages from Wednesday, April 24th storm and was inspected by FEMA/SEMA staff with the following results:

0 homes were destroyed
8 homes suffered major damage
8 homes had minor damage

SEMA actions:

SEMA officials dispatched three preliminary disaster assessment teams to assist local officials in requesting aid. They along with their FEMA partners completed damage assessments over the weekend. FEMA inspectors along with SEMA's Southeast Missouri Area Coordinator completed inspections in Bollinger County.

State Agency actions:

Missouri State Highway Patrolmen from Troops E and G and the Water Patrol were assisting local authorities in providing security at damage sites throughout Southeast Missouri.

Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) facilities, equipment and personnel are being used to assist local Highway Departments in road clearance and debris removal.

Public Service Commission assisted in getting emergency phone lines established for Salvation Army and 7th Day Adventist Services in Butler County.

Volunteer Organization actions:

SEMA convened a meeting of community, human services, voluntary, and government agencies that have a potential role in disaster relief. (Meeting was 2:00 p.m. Poplar Bluff – 4/27/2002 – 50 representatives of 25 agencies.) Coordination center for recovery operations is at the Butler County Emergency Operations Center.

United Methodist Committee on Relief is coordinating volunteers.

Church World Services will convene a meeting this morning at Van Buren, Missouri to coordinate the fund raising and assistance efforts.

American Red Cross – Responded to Bollinger County Tornado. No shelter, but housed 10 families in the immediate aftermath of the tornado. Salvation Army is supporting ARC.

AmeriCorp reported Sunday that they have a twelve person team assisting in clearing County Road 512 in Bollinger County.

7th Day Adventists, Church World Service, United Methodist, and other agencies have deployed staff to Poplar Bluff and are assisting citizens in the Butler County area.

Federal actions:

Joint Damage Assessment Teams comprising FEMA, SBA, and SEMA personnel completed damage assessments in the damage area over the weekend.

FEMA Region VII liaison was contacted over the weekend and assisted in coordinating response efforts in Bollinger County.

Small Business Administration personnel completed their survey of businesses and homeowners in the area. They also worked with the State of Missouri/FEMA in the joint preliminary damage assessment in the affected areas, which included Bollinger County.

Forecast:

National Weather Service reports that Monday, April 29, 2002, will be calm and sunny with a high in the 60's. Another round of potentially dangerous storms will arrive in the area on Tuesday. Rain showers are expected Wednesday and Thursday.